GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4235
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
GSI IN BHUTAN
MINATI SEN

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to wind up the GSI`s Bhutan unit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this unit has a working strength of 153, out of which 76 regular (locally recruited) and 77 are contingent workers;

(d) whether the term `Local Recruits` is a misnomer since the recruitments were mostly made through the Employment Exchange, Jalpaiguri;

(e) whether locally recruited Regular workmen were given a pay scale on the basis of Bhutan scheme but all the payments are being made from the Consolidated Funds of India;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(g) whether the Government propose to consider to transfer the regular staff to the main stream of GSI on repatriation basis and regularisation of the contingent workers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a)&(b): Bhutan Unit of Geological Survey of India (GSI) was established in 1961 under aid to Bhutan from the Budget of Ministry of External Affairs. The Unit was established at the instance of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGOB) to advise and assist the RGOB in geological investigation; to undertake a geo-environmental appraisal for prevention of environmetal degradation; natural hazards mitigation; to assist RGOB by imparting training to Bhutanese officials; and in setting up the Department of Geology of Bhutan Government. As the Government of Bhutan have now indicated their capability and sufficiency, it has therefore been decided by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to wind up Bhutan Unit of GSI in a phased manner by 31st December, 2002.

(c) to (g): The Geological Survey of India (GSI) interalia had deployed 153 workers, of which 76 were initially engaged as casual workers. These casual workers were regularized later as per RGOB Rule, with the condition that their service would stand terminated as soon as the Bhutan Scheme of GSI came to an end. Barring two Compounders none of these 76 persons was recruited through Jalpaiguri Employment Exchange. In line with Royal Government of Bhutan Rules, Government of India has sanctioned a special terminal benefit package to these 76 persons. As regards 77 casual workers, Government has decided to shit them to GSI offices in India as contingent workers subject to availability of work.